GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2445
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
INSECTS IN APPLES
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether insects have been found in the apples imported from U.S.;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware of the dangers in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any advanced mechanism is not available in the country to test the infested products;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. There are no reports of interceptions of quarantine pests from imported apple consignments from USA or any non-compliance of Indian Plant Quarantine Regulations by such imports.

(d) to (f): Indian Plant Quarantine system has established quarantine centers at the ports of entry (air and sea). Most of the Plant Quarantine Stations, especially, New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, through which major proportion of imported commodities enter the country, have established laboratory facilities for diagnosis of quarantine pests and diseases as per the established procedure of inspection and approval for release of imported agri-commodities. The imported consignments of apples are inspected on arrival to ensure freedom from pests and diseases of quarantine significance to India. This ensures prevention of entry of quarantine pests and diseases into the country.